

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 L-03
NEA-10 IO-13 ACDA-07 COME-00 FEA-01 INT-05 TRSE-00
NSF-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 DOTE-00 CG-00 CEQ-01 OIC-02
EPA-01 AGRE-00 /101 W
-----182208Z 122844 /70

R 182004Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1744
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 04602

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: XV, TGEN, UK
SUBJECT: ANTARCTIC TREATY: REPORT ON MARCH PREPARATORY
MEETING

REF: (A) LONDON 4241; (B) LONDON 4447
1. ANTARCTIC TREATY PREPARATORY CONFERENCE CONCLUDED
MARCH 18 WITH AGREEMENT ON THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE
CONSULTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 19-OCTOBER
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7 IN LONDON; PROGRESS HAVING BEEN MADE ON THE MINERAL
AND LIVING RESOURCES QUESTIONS; AND A DEADLOCK ON THE
QUESTION OF THE ADMITTANCE OF POLAND AS A CONSULTATIVE
PARTY BUT WITH A DECISION TO HOLD A SHORT SPECIAL CONSUL-
TATIVE MEETING IN LONDON DURING ONE OF THE LAST TWO
WEEKS IN JULY SPECIFICALLY TO DECIDE ON THE ADMISSION OF
POLAND AND TO FORMULATE A PROCEDURE TO GOVERN ADMISSION

TO CONSULTATIVE PARTY STATUS.

2. ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES: IN ADDITION TO AFFIRMING INCLUSION OF THIS ITEM ON AGENDA OF NINTH CONSULTATIVE, DELEGATES DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT IN TERMS OF TWO GENERAL TOPICS: A POSSIBLE CONSERVATION REGIME FOR ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES; AND ATTENTION DIRECTED TO SUCH RESOURCES BY FAO AND TO LESSER EXTENT WITHIN ECOSOC.

3. FOUR WORKING PAPERS WERE TABLED ON THIS ITEM: THE UK DRAFT PAPER ON THE AGENDA ITEM PREPARED PRIOR TO THE MEETING; AN AUSTRALIAN PAPER LISTING POSSIBLE OPTIONS FOR A REGIME FOR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES; THE U.S. INFORMAL OUTLINE OF QUESTIONS WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE ANSWERED IN DEVELOPING A CONSERVATION REGIME; AND A UK PAPER RESPONDING TO THE U.S. OUTLINE AND APPENDING A REVISED DRAFT OUTLINE OF A CONVENTION ON THE LIVING RESOURCES OF THE SOUTHERN OCEAN (PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED TO CERTAIN DELS AT PARIS SPECIAL PREPARATORY MEETING).

4. NINE DELS (ALL BUT ARGENTINA, JAPAN AND USSR) STRESSED NEED FOR ANTARCTIC TREATY PARTIES TO TAKE INITIATIVE RAPIDLY TO DEAL WITH LIVING RESOURCES ISSUE. CONCEPT OF SEPARATE CONVENTION WAS WIDELY SUPPORTED, EXCEPT FOR CHILE WHICH EXPRESSED STRONG PREFERENCE FOR AGREED MEASURES APPROACH. INFORMALLY. JAPAN DEL EXPRESSED PRELIMINARY VIEW THAT LIVING RESOURCE REGIME IS REQUIRED AT CONFIDENTIAL

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EARLY DATE, WHILE USSR INDICATED THAT LIVING RESOURCE ISSUE IS UNDER REVIEW. U.S. PAPER DREW FAVORABLE COMMENT AS OFFERING FRAMEWORK FOR CONSIDERING ISSUE INCLUDING AT NINTH CONSULTATIVE.

5. FAO CONSULTANT POPPER MET INFORMALLY WITH DELEGATES AND DESCRIBED CURRENT STATUS OF FAO/UNDP PROPOSALS WITH REGARD TO SOUTHERN OCEAN. PRESENTATION TRIGGERED EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION OF CONSULTATIVE PARTY ATTITUDES TOWARD FAO INVOLVEMENT IN TREATY AREA. GENERAL VIEW THAT TREATY PARTY DELEGATIONS TO UPCOMING FAO COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES MEETING IN ROME CONSULT ON ANY ITEMS RELATING TO ANTARCTICA DURING THAT MEETING.

6. MINERAL RESOURCES: WORKING GROUP PREPARING PROGRAM FOR EXPERTS MEETING IN CONJUNCTION WITH NINTH CONSULTATIVE AGREED TO GUIDELINES FOR EXPERTS WHICH CONFINE THEIR WORK TO TECHNOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF ANTARCTIC MINERAL RESOURCE EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION AND OF RELATED EN-

VIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND REMEDIAL ACTIVITIES. SOVIETS,
WHO AT PARIS SPECIAL PREPARATORY MEETING INSISTED ON A
RECOMMENDATION FOCUSING EXPERTS WORK SOLELY ON ENVIRON-
MENTAL IMPACT APPRAISAL, DESPITE DUPLICATION OF EXISTING
MANDATE TO SCAR, AGREED RELUCTANTLY TO SUBSTANCE OF

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GUIDELINES WHILE EMPHASIZING REQUIREMENT FOR GOVERNMENTS
TO APPROVE THEM. DURING INFORMAL CONSIDERATION OF CON-
DUCT OF EXPERTS' MEETING, INCLUDING TYPE OF EXPERTS,
FORMAL, AND ADVANCE WORK REQUIRED, U.S. PROPOSALS MET
WITH GENERAL ACCEPTANCE.

7. POLISH CONSULTATIVE STATUS: ON LAST DAY OF MEETING,

UK TABLED INFORMAL COMPROMISE DRAFT ON PROCEDURES FOR
ATTAINING CONSULTATIVE STATUS, WHICH WOULD BE PART OF
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SIMULTANEOUS ACTION TO ADMIT POLAND. DRAFT CALLS FOR
CONSULTATIVE MEETING TO DETERMINE MATTER IN EACH FUTURE
CASE OF AN ACCEDING STATE THAT CONSIDERS IT HAS ATTAINED
CONSULTATIVE STATUS. MANY DELEGATIONS FOUND IT GENERALLY
ACCEPTABLE IN ITS APPROACH. BUT CHILEAN, ARGENTINE, USSR
AND U.S. HAD RESERVATIONS. TIME DID NOT PERMIT RESOLU-
TION OF A NUMBER OF OBJECTIONS OF LESS SUBSTANTIAL DIFFI-
CULTY. THUS, THOSE PRESENT AGREED TO U.S. SUGGESTION
THAT UK SHOULD CALL A SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING IN
JULY TO CONSIDER THE TWO ISSUES ONLY, WITH A VIEW TO
ENSURING POLISH PARTICIPATION IN FULL CONSULTATIVE MEET-
ING IN SEPTEMBER.

8. THE POSSIBILITY OF MORE FREQUENT THAN BIENNIAL CON-
SULTATIVE MEETINGS WAS AIRED BY AUSTRALIA, IT THEN BEING
AGREED THAT THE SUBJECT WOULD BE ADDRESSED AT THE NINTH
CONSULTATIVE MEETING. POSSIBILITY OF U.S. ACTING AS
HOST FOR TENTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING WAS DEFERRED UNTIL
SOVIETS INDICATE WHETHER OR NOT THEY WILL HOST THE MEET-
ING AS EXPECTED ACCORDING TO REGULAR SCHEDULE. SOVIET
REP AT PREPARATORY MEETING WAS UNINSTRUCTED ON QUESTION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, MEETING AGENDA, PLANNING MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LONDON04602
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770093-1101
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770346/aaaabnqe.tel
Line Count: 201
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4709eeb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LONDON 4241, 77 LONDON 4447
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3068164
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANTARCTIC TREATY: REPORT ON MARCH PREPARATORY MEETING
TAGS: TGEN, XV, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4709eeb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009